

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

SCOTT JENKINS *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

V.

Case No. 16-cv-792 JPG/SCW

BRUCE BURKEY *et al.*,

Defendants.

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on plaintiffs' motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* (Doc.3). A federal court may permit an indigent party to proceed without pre-payment of fees. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1). Nevertheless, a court can deny a qualified plaintiff leave to file *in forma pauperis* or can dismiss a case if the action is clearly frivolous or malicious. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i). The test for determining if an action is frivolous or without merit is whether the plaintiff can make a rational argument on the law or facts in support of the claim. *Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989); *Corgain v. Miller*, 708 F.2d 1241, 1247 (7th Cir. 1983). When assessing a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*, a district court should inquire into the merits of the plaintiff's claims, and if the court finds them to be frivolous, it should deny leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. *Lucien v. Roegner*, 682 F.2d 625, 626 (7th Cir. 1982).

The Court is satisfied from plaintiffs' affidavit that they are indigent. Furthermore, the Court does not find anything in the file to indicate that this action is frivolous or malicious. Therefore, the Court **GRANTS** the motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* without prepayment of fees and costs (Doc.3). The Court notes, however, that should it become apparent that the action is frivolous or malicious at any time in the future, it may dismiss the case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §

1915(e)(2)(B)(i).

The plaintiffs having been granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*, the Court must order service of process by a United States Marshal or Deputy Marshal or other specially appointed person if the plaintiff desires such service. Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(c)(3).

If the plaintiffs wish the United States Marshals Service to serve process in this case, the Court **DIRECTS** the plaintiffs to provide to the United States Marshals Service the summons issued in this case, the appropriately completed USM-285 forms and sufficient copies of the complaint for service.

The Court further **DIRECTS** the United States Marshal, upon receipt of the aforementioned documents from the plaintiff and pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(c)(3), to serve a copy of the summons, complaint and this order upon the defendant in any manner consistent with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4, as directed by the plaintiffs. Costs of service shall be borne by the United States.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: July 28, 2016

s/J. Phil Gilbert
J. PHIL GILBERT
DISTRICT JUDGE